

ordinary way could not have been purchased for the whole amount of the subscription; and that after paying for illustrating and printing the report, printing almanacs and prospectuses, the cost of the general meeting and the exhibition of prizes, a proportion of the cost of the charter, the reserve of 2½ per cent. to provide a gallery hereafter, and the expenses of carrying on the large operations of the society,—half the total amount subscribed was distributed in the shape of prizes at the annual meeting, and in which distribution every member had, of course, one or more chances.

With the funds then allotted, 137 works of art were purchased from the various public collections, and were exhibited in the Suffolk-street Gallery, by the kind permission of the Society of British Artists. The exhibition was open for four weeks, and was visited, as heretofore, by an immense number of persons, without any accident or injury.

The engraving for the current year, "Salween," by Mr. Lightfoot, from the painting by Mr. Frost, A.R.A., is ready for electrotyping.

In addition to an impression of this, each subscriber will receive an engraving after a design in *basso relievo*, by Mr. John Hancock, "Christ entering Jerusalem," submitted in competition for a premium of 100*l.*, offered by the council for the best design in *basso relievo*, for this purpose.

In reply to the advertisement of this premium, twenty-five designs were sent in, several of them having great merit. To one of these, "The Death of Boadicea," by Mr. Armstead, the council awarded an honorary premium, and have arranged to produce a certain number of copies of it in bronze, by the electrotype process, to be distributed hereafter as prizes.

Copies of the prize design in bronze will also be made.

The council take this opportunity to thank the various artists who responded to their invitation.

The satisfaction with which the illustrations of Milton have been received, has led the council to determine on producing a similar volume for the subscribers of the ensuing year. The poem selected is Goldsmith's "Traveller," which will be illustrated by thirty engravings on wood. Messrs. Richard Ansdell, John Aboulin, Edward Corbould, Frederick Taylor, W. E. Frost, A.R.A., John Gilbert, F. Goodall, John Martin, R. Huskisson, W. L. Leitch, Clarkson Stanfield, R.A., E. H. Wehnert, E. M. Ward, A.R.A., J. D. Harding, G. Hodgson, F. W. Popham, E. Duncan, E. Armitage, and Thomas Webster, R.A., have already accepted commissions for the drawings.

The engraving of "The Crucifixion," by Mr. W. Einfeld, after Hilton, is advancing towards completion.

Messrs. Bacon, Edward Goodall, and Shenton, are making progress respectively with "The Burial of Harold," after Mr. F. R. Pickersgill; "The Irish Piper" (after Mr. F. Goodall); and "Richard Coeur de Lion forcing Bertrand de Gourdon," after Mr. John Cross.

In addition to these, which, as mentioned in the last report, are being engraved on steel, as an experiment on the practicability of ceasing to electotype the same plate for all the subscribers, the council have placed "The Villa of Lucullus," by Mr. Leitch, in the hands of Mr. Willmore, to be engraved for the society. Each subscriber of the ensuing year will be entitled to obtain an impression of one of these engravings,—the particular print which each will receive being decided by lot.

Statuettes in porcelain of "The Dancing Girl reposing," allotted last year, are in the course of completion, and will shortly be distributed to the prizeholders entitled to them.

The engraving of "Queen Philippa interceding for the Lives of the Burgesses of Calais," by Mr. H. Robinson, after Mr. Selous, is in progress. It is proposed to allot to-day the right to 252 proof impressions of this work.

The bust of her Majesty the Queen, in bronze, after Chantrey, being coveted by many of the subscribers, it is proposed that twenty additional copies of it shall be distributed to-day as prizes. The greater number of those allotted last year are in the hands of their respective owners.

The figure of "Thalia," in cast-iron, already mentioned on several occasions, is now so near

completion that the members to whom it was allotted may expect to obtain it forthwith. The council, although in no wise accountable for the delay which has attended the publication of this figure, feel indebted to the prizeholders for the patience with which they have waited for it. The council mention as a subject of gratification that they received intimation, some time since, on the part of the Prince Albert, that his Royal Highness would be glad to have a copy of each of the bronzes issued by the Art-Union, and wished that they might be prepared at his expense. Copies of the majority of them were accordingly obtained and forwarded, and the remainder are in course of execution. The council, who view with deep interest every event affecting the progress of the fine arts in the United Kingdom, congratulate the country on the enlightened desire uniformly displayed by his Royal Highness to assist in this important object.

The impulse that has been given to the production of bronzes in this country, by the efforts of the Art Union of London, and which has since extended to the manufacture of statuettes in other materials, is so obvious and so fully recognised, as not to require assertion. To lead the arts to the aid of our manufactures, has been one of the objects kept steadily in view by the Council of the Art Union of London from the date of its establishment. Apart from the increased commercial value thereby given, it is much to be desired in an educational point of view, that all articles of furniture and in daily use, should have the forms of beauty which art can give. As these become familiar to the eyes of all, that which is inelegant and unsymmetrical becomes displeasing, and the general standard of taste is necessarily raised. Art can give value to the meanest material, and make a lump of clay, a "joy for ever."

The things which are around us mould and influence the mind more powerfully than some suppose. Homes are the manufactories of men, so to speak;—the well ordering of them is surely a matter of no trifling moment.

The die for the reverse of the "Wren" medal has been completed by Mr. Benjamin Wyon, and is now being hardened to supply the necessary number of impressions.

The medals commemorative of Hogarth, allotted at the last meeting, have been delivered to those entitled to receive them.

The Flaxman medal, allotted some time since, and delayed by circumstances which the council were unable to control, has been undertaken by Mr. W. Wyon, R.A. It has been already stated that prizeholders entitled to this medal, who may prefer to obtain it once, in lieu of it, either of the medals already published by the Society, are at liberty to do so.

Dies for a medal in honour of Inigo Jones are in course of execution, by Mr. C. F. Carter; thirty impressions of this in silver will be allotted to-day.

The council mention with regret, that within the last few days they have been deprived, by death, of the services of Mr. Collard, who, for several years, had given his continuous attention, as a member of the council, to the financial affairs of the society. James Stewart, Esq., assistant secretary of the Bank of England, has been elected to supply the vacancy thus caused. Further, to complete the number of the council limited by the charter, and comply with the regulation which requires that four new members shall be appointed annually, Dominic Colnaghi, Esq., John Martin, Esq., M.P., and C. R. Beauclerk, Esq., have been elected.

The reserve fund now amounts to the sum of 3,409*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.*

Details will be given in the printed report. And it may here be mentioned that arrangements have been made for issuing this report, with the list of subscribers, much sooner after the distribution than has heretofore been the case.

The following is a statement of the receipts and expenditure:—

Amount of subscriptions.....	£10,391 17 0
Set apart for purchase of pictures, busts, statuettes, medals, proof engravings, and lithographs.....	4,158 0 0
Cost of engravings of the year.....	3,372 9 2
Expenses and reserve of 2½ per cent.....	2,861 7 10
	£10,391 17 0

The accounts have been audited by three members of the Finance Committee and two gentlemen from the body of the subscribers, viz., Mr. J. H. Mann and Mr. G. Gillott, to whom thanks are due.

The sum set apart for the purchase of works of art by the prizeholders themselves (3,205*l.*) will be thus allotted:—

	Each:
16 works, at.....	£10
15 ".....	15
12 ".....	20
12 ".....	25
12 ".....	40
7 ".....	50
5 ".....	60
4 ".....	70
4 ".....	80
2 ".....	100
1 ".....	150
1 ".....	200

To these are to be added—

- 20 bronzes of "The Queen,"
- 50 statuettes of "Narcissus," after Gibson,
- 282 proof impressions, "Queen Philippa interceding for the Lives of the Burgesses of Calais,"
- 282 lithographs of "St. Cecilia," by Mr. Maugre, after Mr. Tenniel, and
- 30 medals, commemorative of "Inigo Jones;"—making in the whole 755 prizes.

The total sum appropriated to the purchase and production of works of art, including the estimated cost of the engravings, is 7,530*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*

The bronzes will be allotted to the first twenty names drawn consecutively at the close of the general distribution; the statuettes to the next fifty similarly drawn; and the medals to the following thirty. The proof engraving of Queen Philippa will be appropriated to the names standing fiftieth in the list preceding and succeeding that of each prizeholder in the general distribution, and of each of those entitled to a porcelain statuette. The lithographs will be appropriated to the names standing in a similar manner one-hundredth preceding and succeeding those above mentioned. Notice will be sent to the subscribers entitled to the statuettes and proofs in the course of two days; the other prizeholders will receive intimation of the result by to-night's post.

Passing from the present to the future—the year which is to come—the council are most anxious to re-awaken the zeal of the numerous friends scattered over the kingdom and its colonies, to whose cordial co-operation and gratuitous exertions in the cause of art and artists the great extension of the society is mainly owing. Simply as an evidence of appreciation, the council have recently determined on presenting to each local honorary secretary who forwards the names of forty or more subscribers, one of the porcelain statuettes produced by the society. They would not have it supposed that they appreciate less the exertions of those coadjutors who, with equal good will and energy in the cause, are unable to obtain this number of subscribers, but some limit seemed necessary. The council earnestly invite the renewed co-operation of all former friends and the assistance of new, and feel assured that the subscribers at large will agree with any step which may hereafter be taken to acknowledge, in some fitting manner, these services, without reference to their results.

Desiring to avoid the appearance of invidiousness, the council do not propose to particularise the efforts of local secretaries, but they cannot avoid stating that from Boston, in the United States, through the exertions of Mr. Dennet, more than 200 subscribers have been obtained. The council have before this expressed their sense of the importance of thus connecting our trans-atlantic brethren with us in furtherance of the arts of peace and refinement.

It may be mentioned that there are now three Art-Unions in the United States, namely, those of New York, Philadelphia, and Cincinnati. The effect of their operations is thus stated in one of their leading literary journals:—

"It is hardly necessary," says the writer, "to speak of the great good the Art Union has accomplished; it is too evident to need to be insisted on; its effects are so palpable that he who runs may read. It has raised art from the lowest depths of degradation; it has